

Donor pays off camp mortgage

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

If money indeed talks, somebody has spoken up loudly for Camp Koinonia by donating approximately \$73,000 — the balance of the camp's mortgage.

Yet the cash will have to do all the talking, because the donor is anonymous.

David Peartree, a Rochester attorney who represents the donor, said the money transfer took place May 10 and was issued through a trust fund set up with the Rochester Area Community Foundation, a philanthropic organization.

Peartree described the donor as a Catholic who "has seen, and is aware of, the spiritual benefits the camp has provided over the years."

Camp Koinonia, located at 1455 Italy Valley Road in Middlesex, Yates County, is the site of several church-related programs, both Catholic and non-Catholic. Rich Versluys, chairman of the camp's board of directors, said he was first contacted by Peartree in December

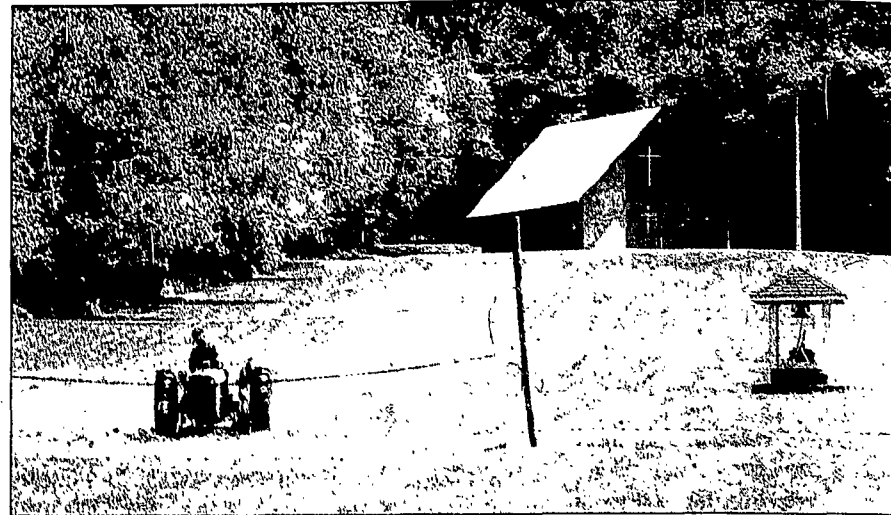
2003 about the donation.

Versluys and his wife Sue, the assistant camp director, are at a loss to identify the person.

"We don't have a clue," Sue Versluys said. Her husband added that it might well be somebody they know, "but I don't know who ... maybe the person next to you is an angel. When you think about it, it's kind of a strange feeling."

To honor this act of generosity, a "gratitude celebration picnic" will take place Sunday, June 5, from 1 to 8 p.m. at Camp Koinonia. Among the many planned activities will be the dedication of a garden to honor the donor.

The money will further enable Camp Koinonia to offer quality programs in a peaceful surrounding that includes a lodge, cabins, chapel, athletic fields, hiking and swimming. The camp was purchased in 1983 from the United Methodist Church by a group of Catholics connected with Family Camp, one of Camp Koinonia's major offerings. Sue Versluys de-



Mike Crupi/Catholic Courier

An anonymous donor has given money to Camp Koinonia in Middlesex, Yates County, to pay off its mortgage. Above, Phillip Dunn, the camp's caretaker, approaches the volleyball net May 17 as he cuts the grass on what campers call "the big field."

scribed Family Camp as a great way for families — including her own — to reconnect with each other.

"We would rather go there than Disney World," she remarked. "The beauty of the place is key — no Internet, TV or phone."

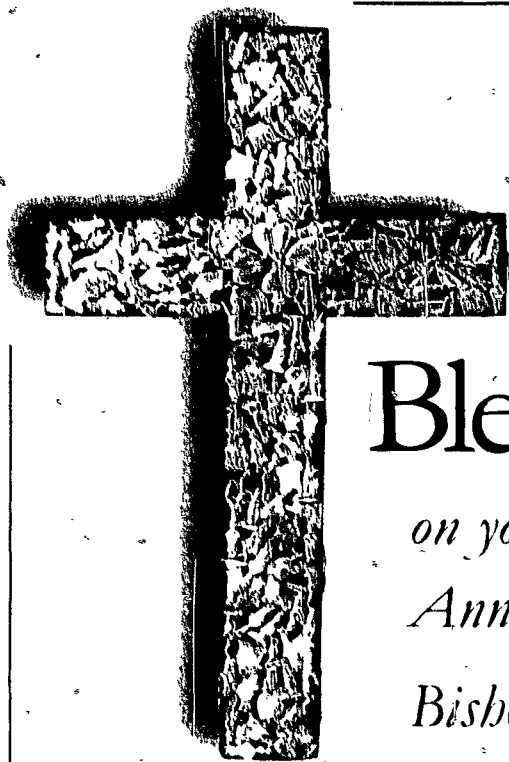
Camp Koinonia is run by volunteers and relies on donations and fundraising to cover its costs. Rich Versluys said the \$73,000 will allow the camp to set aside emergency money and also perform repairs to

the chapel roof and recreational facilities.

Several other Catholic and Protestant programs will be held at Camp Koinonia this spring through fall, attracting approximately 800 participants in all.

"There's going to be a lot of excitement this summer, I think," Rich Versluys said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: To learn more about Camp Koinonia, visit www.campkoinonianany.org.



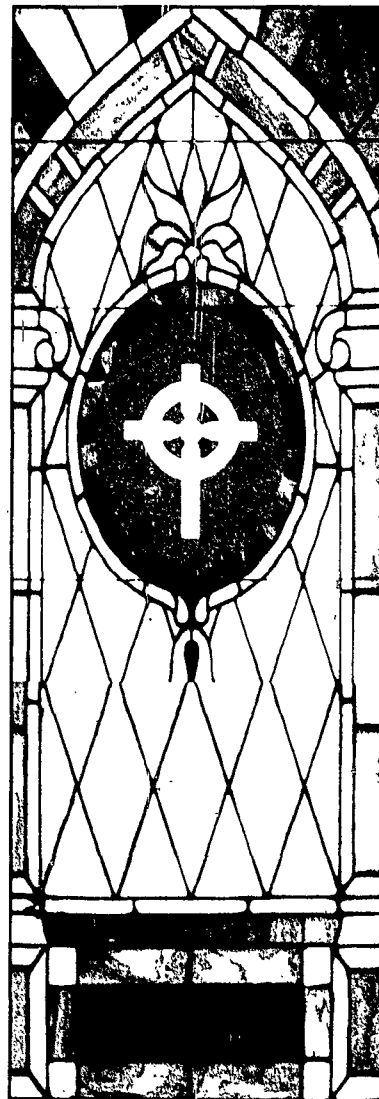
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Anniversary
Bishop Clark*

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ST. FRANCIS SOLANUS CHURCH, INTERLAKEN

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, OVID



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Bishop Clark

on your

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